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French loans in Hausa¹

Hausa lexicon has been the object of many studies regarding loans. For example we have many articles on different languages that have loaned words to Hausa: Arabic (Baldi 1988, 1995, 2008; Greenberg 1947; Hiskett 1965), English (Ikara 1975; Leben 1996; Muhammad 1968; Salim 1981), Fulfulde (Baldi 1992), Kanuri (Baldi 2002; Greenberg 1960), Tuareg (Gouffé 1974) and other languages which influenced Hausa. However, in the latest bibliography of Chadic and Hausa linguistics (Newman 2013) no mention is made of French loans in Hausa. Hausa spoken in Niger (a former French colony) is full of loanwords not common in standard Hausa (i.e. Hausa spoken in Nigeria) and many of these words are from French (Moussa-Aghali 1994 & 1999). In the first paper devoted to this topic, I list some of these words, which of course do not form a complete set. Apart from single words, I also include three compounds: *aikin sàǝrùshì*, *aikin sàǝbìs* and *ǝan bǝjwà* which are calques only partially formed by a French word. I consider them interesting because they are worth future analysis to discover their semantic, phonological and morphological rules.

Niger Hausa	English	French
<i>ǝbiyàso</i>	‘aerodrome’	< aviation ²
<i>ǝbiyàtār</i>	‘tee-shirt’	< ? (maillot d’)aviateur
<i>ǝbiyô</i>	‘aeroplane’	< avion

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² Local French for *aéroport*.

<i>àbòkà</i>	‘lawyer’	< avocat
<i>aikin sàrbís</i>	‘restaurant service’	< service restaurant
<i>aikin sàrùshì</i>	‘civil service’	< service civil
<i>àkàsàdàn</i>	‘car accident’	< accident de voiture
<i>àlbītīr</i>	‘referee’	< arbitre
<i>àlimētī</i>	‘match’	< allumette
<i>àlkwāl</i>	‘alcohol’	< alcool
<i>àmàrītīsār</i>	‘shock absorber’	< amortisseur
<i>àmbàsád</i>	‘embassy’	< ambassade
<i>àmbàsàdār</i>	‘ambassador’	< ambassadeur
<i>àmbīrīyājī</i>	‘clutch’	< embrayage
<i>àmbītē</i>	‘reception’	< invité
<i>àmḡān</i>	‘breakdown’	< en panne
<i>àmḡūl</i>	‘light bulb’	< ampoule
<i>àndīr</i>	‘building’	< en dur ³
<i>antamḡarētī</i>	‘interpreter’	< interprète
<i>antaṛē / antarētī</i>	‘retirement’	< en retraite
<i>ārāzūwār</i>	‘razor’	< rasoir
<i>ārēbuwāl!</i>	‘goodbye!’	< au revoir!
<i>ārēzūwār</i>	‘watering can’	< arrosoir
<i>àskāliyē</i>	‘stairs’	< escalier
<i>àskīlātār</i>	‘accelerator’	< accélérateur
<i>àstīlō</i>	‘pen’	< stylo
<i>bàkāns</i>	‘holidays’	< vacance
<i>bālīs</i>	‘suitcase’	< valise
<i>balshē</i>	‘wound’	< blessé
<i>bansīr!</i>	‘good evening!’	< bonsoir!
<i>bàsḡā</i>	‘motor scooter’	< Vespa ⁴
<i>bātūr</i>	‘battery’	< batterie
<i>bēr</i>	‘drinking glass’	< verre
<i>bētān</i>	‘concrete’	< béton
<i>bībīlōtēk</i>	‘library’	< bibliothèque
<i>bīdanḡī</i>	‘engine oil change’	< vidange
<i>bīdō</i>	‘oil can’	< bidon
<i>bīk</i>	‘biro’	< bic ⁵
<i>bīlētān</i>	‘bulletin’	< bulletin
<i>bīnēḡīr</i>	‘vinegar’	< vinaigre

³ From the expression *construit en dur* ‘a permanent structure (constructed with cement)’ as opposed to *construit en terre* (lit. constructed with earth).

⁴ From Italian via French.

⁵ Trade name of a ball-point pen (from Marcel Bich’s name).

<i>bīrīkē</i>	‘lighter’	< briquet
<i>bīrō/ būrō</i>	‘office’	< bureau
<i>bīs</i>	‘screw’	< vis
<i>bīshōn</i>	‘cork’	< bouchon
<i>bītōn</i>	‘button’	< bouton
<i>bīyē</i>	‘banknote’	< billet
<i>bīyēr</i>	‘beer’	< bière
<i>bōlān</i>	‘steering wheel’	< volant
<i>bōmbō</i>	‘sweets’	< bonbons
<i>bōñ</i>	‘boots’	< bottes
<i>būjī</i>	‘sparkplug’	< bougie d’allumage
<i>būl</i>	‘bowls’	< boules
<i>būlbīt</i>	‘mineral water’	< ? Volcic ⁶
<i>būrō</i>	‘office’	< bureau
<i>būrūs</i>	‘scholarship’	< bourse
<i>būshō</i>	‘cork’	< bouchon
<i>būtō</i>	‘button’	< bouton
<i>buwātī</i>	‘tin can’	< boîte de conserve
<i>bwācīr</i>	‘car’	< voiture
<i>cākōlā</i>	‘chocolate’	< chocolat
<i>dàktīlō</i>	‘typist’	< dactylo
<i>dārā</i>	‘cloth’	< drap
<i>dārāktār</i>	‘manager’	< directeur
<i>dēfilē</i>	‘parade’	< défilé
<i>dēfīē</i>	‘deputy’	< député
<i>dīfītē</i>	‘deputy’; ‘senator’	< député
<i>Dīmāshī / Dūmāshī</i>	‘Sunday’	< dimanche
<i>dīnāmō</i>	‘dynamo’	< dynamo
<i>dīrāksō</i>	‘steering of car’	< direction
<i>dīrāktār</i>	‘headmaster’	< directeur
<i>dīrāktīrīs</i>	‘headmistress’	< directrice
<i>dōbūl</i>	‘double’	< double
<i>dōsē</i>	‘office file’	< dossier
<i>dūbān / dūbbān</i>	‘wine’	< du vin ⁷
<i>dūbulē</i>	‘overtaking’	< doubler

⁶ Name of a mineral water brand.

⁷ It is interesting to see that the French expression *du vin* to indicate wine is entered in many African languages: cf. Swahili *duvai* < Malagasy *divái*. (Baldi 2009: 613). “The Malagasy word for ‘oil’ is *diloilo*, which can only be understood if one remembers French *de l’huile*. Similarly we find *dipilō* ‘shot for a shotgun’ from French *du plomb*, *dipoàvatra* ‘pepper’ from *du poivre*, *ditē* ‘tea’ from *du thé* and *divái* ‘wine’ from *du vin*” (Knappert 1970: 84–85).

<i>dùwân</i>	‘customs’	< douane
<i>dùgùnye</i>	‘customs official’	< douanier
<i>dàn bījwà</i>	‘middle-class person’	< bourgeois
<i>èkuŕû</i>	‘screw’	< écrou
<i>èkwâl</i>	‘primary school’	< école
<i>èlibājì</i>	‘veterinary clinic’	< élevage
<i>èlikàptār</i>	‘helicopter’	< hélicoptère
<i>èsanshì</i>	‘petrol’	< essence
<i>fàkê</i>	‘packet’	< paquet
<i>fàlâ</i>	‘platter’	< plat
<i>fâlîs militâr</i>	‘military police’	< police militaire
<i>fàngil</i>	‘safety pin’	< épingle (de sûreté)
<i>fânô</i>	‘road sign’	< panneau (de signalisation)
<i>fâns</i>	‘pliers’	< pince
<i>fântîr</i>	‘paint’	< peinture
<i>fanyì</i>	‘comb’	< peigne
<i>fârêfê / fârġê</i>	‘administrative prefect’	< préfet
<i>fârġâsâr</i>	‘professor’	< professeur
<i>fârmànkàlâsh</i>	‘private’	< première classe
<i>fârmâsî</i>	‘pharmacy’	< pharmacie
<i>fârmî</i>	‘permit’	< permis
<i>fârtàmânê / fârtamāni</i>	‘purse’	< porte-monnaie
<i>fârtî</i>	‘party’	< parti
<i>fârġîdân</i>	‘president’	< président
<i>fâs</i>	‘post office’	< (bureau de) poste
<i>fâsàjê</i>	‘passenger’	< passager
<i>fas dà fâlîs</i>	‘police station’	< poste de police
<i>fâsê</i>	‘driving test’	< passer ⁸
<i>fâsê</i>	‘ironing’	< repasser
<i>fâsfâr</i>	‘passport’	< passeport
<i>fâtantî</i>	‘trading licence’	< patente
<i>fâzgô</i>	‘passport’	< passeport
<i>fêlî / fêlû</i>	‘shovel’	< pelle
<i>fêrân</i>	‘brake’	< frein
<i>fîl</i>	‘electric wire’	< fil électrique
<i>fîlântô</i>	‘messenger’; ‘orderly’	< planton
<i>finê</i>	‘tyre’	< pneu
<i>finê sêkûr</i>	‘spare tyre’	< pneu de secours
<i>fîrîm</i>	‘retirement pay’	< prime

⁸ From the expression *passer le permis* ‘take driver’s test’.

<i>fīrīmār</i>	‘premier’	< ? primaire
<i>fīrīs</i>	‘plug’	< prise (électrique)
<i>fīrshidān</i>	‘fridge’	< Frigidaire ⁹
<i>fish</i>	‘electric plug’	< fiche
<i>fistān</i>	‘piston’	< piston
<i>fistòlê</i>	‘pistol’	< pistolet
<i>gābārdīn</i>	‘gabardine’	< gabardine
<i>gālās</i>	‘ice’	< glace
<i>gārād</i>	‘rank’	< grade
<i>gārđábú</i>	‘salute’	< garde à vous
<i>gārđanyê</i>	‘guard’	< gardien
<i>gārêfê</i>	‘grafted’	< greffé
<i>gātô</i>	‘cake’	< gâteau
<i>gāzūwāl</i>	‘diesel oil’	< “gazoual” ¹⁰
<i>gòlê</i>	‘goalkeeper’	< goal
<i>gùdūrô</i>	‘tar’	< goudron
<i>guhuŋnamà</i>	‘governor’	< gouverneur
<i>gùhùrnùmá</i>	‘government’	< gouvernement
<i>gwàláf</i>	‘light bulb’	< ? goyave ¹¹
<i>hìyās</i>	‘minibus’	< (Toyota) Hiace ¹²
<i>hōlô</i>	‘tee-shirt’	< polo
<i>hùlātīr</i>	‘plaster cast’	< plâtre
<i>hūrtumāmì</i>	‘purse’	< porte-monnaie
<i>hūrù / hūrù</i>	‘oven’; ‘kiln’	< four
<i>hwàkê</i>	‘packet’	< paquet
<i>hwàlâ</i>	‘take-away food’	< ? à emporter
<i>hwàmât</i>	‘cosmetic cream’	< pommade
<i>hwànâtīr</i>	‘window’	< fenêtre
<i>hwārmāshì</i>	‘chemist’s’	< pharmacie
<i>hwārmātūr’èkālār</i>	‘zipper’	< fermeture éclair
<i>ilēri</i>	‘oil mill’	< huilerie
<i>inārijì</i>	‘electricity’	< énergie
<i>irāniyân</i>	‘uranium’	< uranium
<i>isanshì</i>	‘petrol’	< essence
<i>isfārādārâ</i>	‘plaster’	< plâtre
<i>istājì</i>	‘course’	< stage
<i>istilô</i>	‘pen’	< stylo

⁹ Name of a brand.

¹⁰ Often pronunciation for *gazole*.

¹¹ Probably due to analogy for its form.

¹² A model of minibus.

<i>itinà</i>	‘lieutenant’	< lieutenant
<i>jànàṛāl</i>	‘general’	< général
<i>jànās</i>	‘youth party’	< jeunesse
<i>jandaṛmà</i>	‘police officer’	< gendarme
<i>jàndāṛmāṛī</i>	‘police force’	< gendarmerie
<i>jārdān</i>	‘park’	< jardin
<i>jāstīs</i>	‘court of law’	< justice
<i>jīf</i>	‘skirt’	< jupe
<i>jīrkāl</i>	‘petrol can’	< jerry can ¹³
<i>kābīl</i>	‘cable’	< cable
<i>kābīn</i>	‘lorry cab’	< cabine
<i>kādō</i>	‘gift for children’	< cadeau
<i>kāfāṛān</i>	‘corporal’	< caporal
<i>kāfē</i>	‘café’; ‘coffee’	< café
<i>kāffōtī</i>	‘overcoat’	< capote ¹⁴
<i>kāftān</i>	‘captain’	< capitaine
<i>kāhō</i>	‘car bonnet’	< capot
<i>kāhōṛān / kāhwāṛān</i>	‘corporal’	< caporal
<i>kāl</i>	‘wedge’	< cale
<i>kālāndīrē</i>	‘calendar’	< calendrier
<i>kālās</i>	‘class’	< classe
<i>kālāsōṛī</i>	‘coachwork’	< carrosserie
<i>kālīsō</i>	‘slip’; ‘underwear’	< caleçon
<i>kāmyō</i>	‘truck’	< camion
<i>kār</i>	‘coach’; ‘bus’	< car
<i>kāṛamgālās</i>	‘ice cream’	< crème glacée
<i>kārcē</i>	‘town ward’	< quartier
<i>kārē</i>	‘quarter of a town’	< carré
<i>kārōtī</i>	‘carrot’	< carotte
<i>kārte</i>	‘card’	< carte
<i>kāṛtī</i>	‘ticket’	< carte
<i>kāṛtīdānditē</i>	‘identity card’	< carte d’identité
<i>kārtō</i>	‘box’	< carton
<i>kārtūshī</i>	‘cartridge’	< cartouche
<i>kārtūshī</i>	‘carton’	< cartouche
<i>kāsāṛōlī</i>	‘saucepan’	< casserole
<i>kasō</i>	‘prison’	< cachot
<i>kāushū</i>	‘rubber’	< caoutchouc

¹³ English word borrowed in French.

¹⁴ Olive-drab.

<i>kàyê</i>	'exercise book'	< cahier
<i>kilê</i>	'key'	< clé
<i>kilîshê</i>	'film negative'; 'transparency'	< cliché
<i>kilîyòtân</i>	'indicator light'	< clignotant
<i>kilò / kilô</i>	'kilogram'	< kilogramme
<i>kîrîk</i>	'jack'	< cric
<i>kizînyêr</i>	'stove'	< cuisinière
<i>kòmbùkàsô</i>	'summons'	< convocation
<i>kùmàndân</i>	'captain', 'commandant'	< commandant
<i>kuř nòmâl</i>	'normal course'	< cours normal
<i>kũrân</i>	'(electrical) current'	< courant
<i>kũrô</i>	'mail'	< courrier
<i>kũrûs</i>	'race-course'	< course
<i>kùtùbâl</i>	'soccer'	< football
<i>kùtùhân</i>	'kick'	< coup de poing
<i>kwàddârût</i>	'highway code'	< code de route
<i>kwàlgât</i>	'Colgate'	< Colgate
<i>kwàmbîn</i>	'trick'	< combine
<i>kwàmbùkàsô</i>	'warrant'	< convocation
<i>kwàmî</i>	'assistant'	< commis
<i>kwàmîtê</i>	'committee'	< comité
<i>kwàmsàriyà / kwàmsèriyà</i>	'police station'	< commissariat
<i>kwànjê</i>	'leave', 'time off'	< congé
<i>kwàntâr</i>	'meter'	< compteur
<i>kwàntiř-mētiř</i>	'foreman', 'supervisor'	< contremaître
<i>kwànyák</i>	'cognac'	< cognac
<i>kyarŕsê</i>	'betting'	< tiercé
<i>kyâs</i>	'case'	< caisse
<i>kyàsiyê</i>	'cashier'	< caissier
<i>lâkilê</i>	'key'	< la clé
<i>lâkkwâl</i>	'primary school'	< l'école
<i>lâkuřù</i>	'recruit'	< recrue
<i>lakwàtârô</i>	'hospital aide'	< docteur
<i>lâm</i>	'blade'	< lame
<i>lanhò / lanhù</i>	'tax'	< impôt
<i>lâtiři</i>	'electricity'	< électricité
<i>lētâr</i>	'litre'	< litre
<i>lētâr</i>	'letter'	< lettre
<i>libařà</i>	'(mil.) service book'	< livret
<i>lîlô</i>	'nylon thread'	< nylon
<i>lìmônât</i>	'lemonade'	< limonade

<i>lîsê</i>	‘secondary school’	< lycée
<i>lishidân</i>	‘warrant officer’	< adjudant
<i>lîtâr</i>	‘litre’	< litre
<i>lòkòtoṛò</i>	‘hospital aide’; ‘doctor’	< docteur
<i>lōtārê</i>	‘lottery’	< loterie
<i>lùlêñ</i>	‘eyeglasses’	< lunettes
<i>luwul / luwuldàmōtār</i>	‘engine oil’	< l’huile de moteur
<i>mādân</i>	‘modern girl’	< madame
<i>mājār</i>	‘major’	< majeur
<i>mālātî</i>	‘disease’	< maladie
<i>mal-gārê</i>	‘badly parked’	< mal garé
<i>mâlô</i>	‘melon’	< melon
<i>mândâ</i>	‘mandate’	< mandat
<i>màngàzā</i>	‘shop’	< magasin
<i>mântô</i>	‘(over)coat’	< manteau
<i>mànyètô</i>	‘tape recorder’	< magnétophone
<i>mās</i>	‘mallet’; ‘sledgehammer’	< masse (outil)
<i>mārtô</i>	‘hammer’	< marteau
<i>māshîn</i>	‘writing machine’	< machine
<i>māsôn</i>	‘mason’	< maçon
<i>mâtâlâ</i>	‘mattress’	< matelas
<i>mâtārñâl</i>	‘maternal’	< maternel
<i>mâtīryāshî</i>	‘machine gun’	< mitrailleuse
<i>mēř</i>	‘mayor’	< maire
<i>mēřî</i>	‘town hall’	< mairie
<i>mētīř / mēzīř</i>	‘metre’	< mètre / mesure
<i>mīdî</i>	‘midday’	< midi
<i>mīkūrô</i>	‘microphone’	< microphone
<i>mīliyò</i>	‘million’	< million
<i>mīnizê</i>	‘carpenter’	< menuisier
<i>mōbilât</i>	‘moped’	< mobylette
<i>mōdâl</i>	‘model’	< modèle
<i>mōlò</i>	‘brick mould’	< moule
<i>mōtô</i>	‘motorbike’	< moto(cycllette)
<i>mûl</i>	‘mussel’	< moule
<i>mùnùwî</i>	‘midnight’	< minuit
<i>mûshe / mûshe</i>	‘official’; ‘Mr.’	< Monsieur
<i>mûsshuwâr</i>	‘handkerchief’	< mouchoir
<i>ōfârlār</i>	‘loudspeaker’	< haut-parleur
<i>òfêrê</i>	‘operation’	< opérer
<i>òpîtâl</i>	‘hospital’	< hôpital
<i>ōřanjî / ořanjî</i>	‘orange’	< orange

<i>pàṛēpē</i>	‘prefect’	< préfet
<i>pàṛmī</i>	‘driver’s license’	< permis
<i>pàṛshāk</i>	‘bumper’	< pare-choc
<i>pàsàjē</i>	‘passenger’	< passager
<i>pīl</i>	‘flashlight battery’	< pile
<i>ṛàdīyô</i>	‘radio’	< radio
<i>ṛaffô</i>	‘rest’	< repos
<i>ṛàmārk</i>	‘trailer’	< remorque
<i>ṛamfūwân</i>	‘roundabout’	< rond-point
<i>ṛànyô</i>	‘meeting’	< réunion
<i>ṛàzùwār</i>	‘razor’	< rasoir
<i>ṛèshô</i>	‘camping stove’	< réchaud
<i>ṛèšī</i>	‘receipt’	< reçu
<i>ṛèsuwâl</i>	‘spring’	< ressort
<i>ṛīdô</i>	‘curtain’	< rideau
<i>ṛôb</i>	‘dress’	< robe
<i>ṛôm</i>	‘rum’	< rhum
<i>ṛôti</i>	‘roast’	< rôti
<i>ṛùgùbī</i>	‘rugby’	< rugby
<i>sāk / sakkò</i>	‘sack’	< sac
<i>sākôt</i>	‘bag’	< sacoche
<i>saltē</i>	‘dirt’	< salté
<i>sàmàṛā</i>	‘sandals’	< samara
<i>sàmbàlmā</i>	‘(mil.) assembly’	< rassemblement
<i>Sàmdī</i>	‘Saturday’	< samedi
<i>sàmī</i>	‘lorry’	< semi(-remorque)
<i>sàndikā</i>	‘trade union’	< syndicat
<i>sànhû</i>	‘indifference’	< s’en fout
<i>santārī / sàntīr</i>	‘belt’	< ceinture
<i>sàṛbēñ</i>	‘towel’	< serviette
<i>sàṛbīs</i>	‘waitress’	< service
<i>sàṛdīn</i> ¹⁵	‘sardine’	< sardine
<i>sàṛjān / sàṛsān</i>	‘sergeant’	< sergent
<i>sàṛtifikā</i>	‘certificate’	< certificat
<i>sàṛūshè / sàṛūshī</i>	‘military service’; ‘department’	< service (militaire)
<i>sàyyē!</i>	‘got it!’	< ça y est
<i>sè’èjē</i>	‘junior secondary school’	< CEG, collège d’enseignement général
<i>shāf</i>	‘boss’, ‘manager’	< chef

¹⁵ *Sardina pilchardus*.

<i>shàfō</i>	‘hat’	< chapeau
<i>shàmbūr</i>	‘air tube’	< chambre à air
<i>shàmḡāmā</i>	‘silencer’	< (tuyau d’) échappement
<i>shaṛ dà kwàmbā</i>	‘tank’	< char de combat
<i>shàṛjē</i>	‘charge’	< charge
<i>shàsī</i>	‘chassis’	< châssis
<i>shimī</i>	‘chemistry’	< chimie
<i>shinkū</i>	‘five’	< cinq
<i>sīhulē</i>	‘whistle’	< sifflet
<i>sīmā</i>	‘cement’	< ciment
<i>sīnyē</i>	‘signature’	< signature
<i>sīrō</i>	‘syrup’	< sirop
<i>sītār</i>	‘cistern’, ‘tank’	< citerne
<i>sōdē</i>	‘solder’	< souder
<i>sōnē</i>	‘ringing’	< sonner
<i>sōsaṭī</i>	‘sock’	< chaussette
<i>suhulē</i>	‘whistle’	< sifflet
<i>sūlār</i>	‘cocky’	< saoulard (ivrogne)
<i>sullūrū</i>	‘cell’	< cellulaire
<i>sūtūwār</i>	‘palaver’, ‘talk’	< histoires
<i>tābīlī / tābūl</i>	‘table’	< table
<i>tālō</i>	‘heel’	< talon
<i>tambūr</i>	‘postage stamp’	< timbre(-poste)
<i>tāmē</i>	‘sieve’	< tamis
<i>tāmḡō</i>	‘rubber stamp’	< tampon
<i>tāpī</i>	‘carpet’	< tapis
<i>tāṛḡāl</i>	‘nylon’	< Tergal
<i>tikē</i>	‘ticket’	< ticket de caisse
<i>tīsī</i>	‘material’	< tissu
<i>tiyā</i>	‘twenty-one’	< ? (ving)t-et-un
<i>tiyō / tiyyō</i>	‘hose’, ‘tube’	< tuyau
<i>tuṛda ’anshē</i>	‘hip size’	< tour de hanche
<i>tuṛdāḡātīṛīn</i>	‘bust size’	< tour de poitrine
<i>tuṛdātāyē</i>	‘waist size’	< tour de taille
<i>tūṛnābīs</i>	‘screwdriver’	< tournevis
<i>Ūt</i>	‘August’	< août
<i>zāzū</i>	‘the latest fashion’	< zizou
<i>zuzū</i>	‘judge’	< juge

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